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Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116
Application No. 10/780,701
Attorney Docket No. 042113

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-21 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of lack of proper antecedent basis.

Claim 1 has been amended to give the proper antecedent basis. Thus, the rejection has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Matsunaga (U.S. Patent No. 6,670,710) in view of Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0230809).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "said pillar being provided on a device isolation structure on said substrate."

By providing the pillar on the device isolation structure, the stress applied to the pillar via the electrode pad does not cause any adversary effect on the operational characteristics of the semiconductor device. In contrast, where the pillar is provided on an active part of the semiconductor device such as a diffusion region, the electrode pad causes disadvantageous effect on the operational characteristics of the semiconductor device.

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Thus, the device isolation structure of the present invention provides a rigid support to the pillar in view of the large elastic modulus of the thick oxide film forming the device isolation structure. Neither Matsunaga nor Nakajima et al teaches or suggests the foregoing feature of amended claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Matsunaga and Nakajima et al. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7-9 and 13-16, all directly or indirectly depending from claim 1, also patentably distinguish over Matsunaga and Nakajima et al for at least the same reasons.

Therefore, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

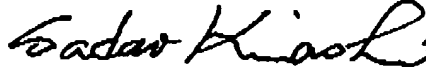
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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